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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY MAN SENTENCED FOR DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announces that today U.S. District Court Judge Richard D. Bennett sentenced Rodney Somerville, 29, of Severn, Maryland to 15 years in prison followed by 8 years of supervised release arising from his guilty plea before the start of trial on February 28, 2005 to drug trafficking and firearms charges.

In a statement of facts provided to the court as part of the plea agreement, the Defendant admitted that on about July 8, 2004 Defendant rented and occupied a bedroom inside 1264 Thompson Avenue, Severn. From that bedroom, law enforcement officers recovered a safe containing 24 small zip lock bags of more than 5 grams of crack cocaine, 25 zip lock bags containing marijuana, a digital scale and other packaging material. Also recovered from the Defendant's room were a loaded semi-automatic 9mm handgun, a .32 caliber pistol, and a 12 gauge shotgun.

The case is a result of an investigation by the United States Attorney's Office, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and Anne Arundel County Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kwame J. Manley.